

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

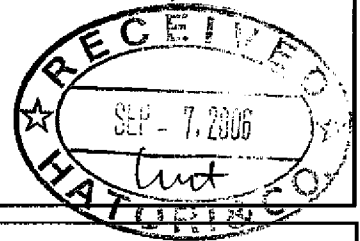
**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL  
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY  
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II  
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)  
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

HATORI, Osamu  
Akasaka HKN Bldg. 6F  
1-chome  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 1070052  
JAPON

8-6, Akasaka



Date of mailing (day/month/year) 31 August 2006 (31.08.2006)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P2004-1340WO	<b>IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION</b>
International application No. PCT/JP2005/000834	
Applicant Kao Corporation et al	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 January 2005 (24.01.2005)

## 1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

## 2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

## 3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P2004-1340WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2005/000834	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 24 January 2005 (24.01.2005)	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 27 January 2004 (27.01.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant Kao Corporation		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application   |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Date of issuance of this report 22 August 2006 (22.08.2006)
Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Yoshiko Kuwahara</div> e-mail: pt07@wipo.int

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

## PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

**P2004-1340W0**

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

**PCT/JP2005/000834**

International filing date (day/month/year)

**24.01.2005**

Priority date (day/month/year)

**27.01.2004**

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

**Kao Corporation**

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000834

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language

\_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐

a sequence listing

☐

table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐

in written format

☐

in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐

contained in the international application as filed.

☐

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐

furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000834

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☐ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has:
- ☐ paid additional fees
  - ☐ paid additional fees under protest
  - ☐ not paid additional fees
2. ☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
  - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

A common technical matter in the subject matters of claims 1-10 is to obtain an absorbing article having elasticity, but this technical matter is publicly known as described in the specification of the present application, and does not constitute a special technical feature in the sense of the second sentence of PCT Rule 13.2.

The subject matters of claims 1-8 and 10 have a common technical matter in that a number of small absorbing bulk articles containing a high absorbing polymer and fibers obtain an absorbing article having elasticity which is three-dimensionally dispersed and arranged, and this technical matter is considered to be a special technical feature in the sense of the second sentence of PCT Rule 13.2, but the technical feature is not described in the subject matter of claim 9.

Consequently, it is clear that at least the subject matters of claims 1-8 and 10 and the subject matter of claim 9 do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☒ all parts
  - ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
**PCT/JP2005/000834**

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-10</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

**2. Citations and explanations:**

Document 1: JP, 56-6098, Y2 (Japan Vilene Co., Ltd.), 10 February, 1981 (10.02.81)

Document 2: JP, 5-140848, A (Kao Corp.), 8 June, 1993 (08.06.93)

The subject matters of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-10 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of document 1 cited in the ISR. Document 1 (see the claims of utility model registration, column 3, lines 18-35) describes an absorbing article in which pulp fiber to which gel-forming substance particles corresponding to a high absorbing polymer are adhered is dispersed and arranged in a long fiber web, and it also describes that part of the long fiber web is mixed with thermally adhesive fibers so that the fibers are adhered to one another in advance, so the absorbing article having such a configuration is considered to have elasticity. Since absorbing articles having elasticity are well known, a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of applying a well-known elastic sheet, etc. as a front-surface material or a reverse-surface material to the absorbing article, thereby making it an absorbing article having elasticity. A person skilled in the art could have also easily conceived of selecting a method of adhering particles of a gel-forming substance to fibers in advance as required, to adjust the size of a pulp fiber adhered to the gel-forming substance as required, and to adjust the elasticity of the absorbing article as required.

The subject matters of claims 3 and 6 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR. Document 2 (see paragraphs [0006]-[0007]) describes an absorbing article in which absorptive particles are retained in crimped fibers crimped in a spiral form, and a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of employing crimped fibers as the long fiber described in document 1 or of retaining the pulp fiber to which particles of the gel-forming substance are adhered within the crimped fibers.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000834

Box No. VIII      Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 9 merely describes a matter corresponding to the problem to be solved by the invention, i.e. that the absorbing performance of an absorbing article after it stretches does not become lower than that before it stretches, and describes nothing about a concrete technical matter to solve the problem. Therefore, concerning claim 9, taking the descriptions of the specification into consideration, our opinion is that the concrete technical matter to solve the above problem is the constituent feature of the invention. Note that under the Japanese Patent Law, merely describing a problem to be solved by an invention as in claim 9 may violate Article 36 of the Japanese Patent Law.